

Surah 87 Surah A'la

THE MOST HIGH

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH A'LA AND SURAH TAARIQ

Two of the major differences in belief that the *Mushrikeen* had with *Rasulullaah* ﷺ were:

- * the belief of *Towheed*.
- * resurrection and retribution.

The belief in resurrection and *Qiyaamah* has been explained in the *Surahs* up to *Surah Taariq*. The belief in *Towheed* is then discussed in the *Surahs* commencing with *Surah A'la*. One of the main reasons why the *Mushrikeen* opposed *Towheed* was their overwhelming love for the world and being totally engrossed with its pleasures. It is for this reason that Allaah urges abstinence from the world along with belief in *Towheed*.

Some of the *Surahs* mention both these aspects; others mention only one, and there are also those that contain warnings against rejecting them. In between these *Surahs*, *Surah Duha* and *Inshiraa*, unlike the others, contain consolation for *Rasulullaah* ﷺ and the *Sahabah* رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

Since *Surah A'la* begins the final portion of the Qur'aan in terms of subject matter. It mentions *Towheed* as well as abstinence from the world. The *Surah* begins with the words, **“Glorify the name of your Exalted Rabb.”** This verse itself urges people to proclaim Allaah to be Pure from all partners because He is The Only True Helper and Knower of the unseen.

Verses 2 to 5 then explain why Allaah is the Only True Helper, thereby establishing the first part of *Towheed*. The reward for propagating this belief is then mentioned in verse 6. Verse 7 thereafter establishes the second part of *Towheed*, when Allaah says, **“Verily Allaah knows what is apparent and what is hidden.”** Therefore, it is understood that *Only* Allaah has knowledge of the unseen. Verse 8 continues to mention the reward for propagating this aspect of *Towheed*.

After citing these two aspects of *Towheed*, Allaah proceeds to console *Rasulullaah* ﷺ by telling him that his task is confined to propagation and that he is not responsible to *make* people believe. Thereafter, verses 12 and 13 warn people about the punishment of the *Aakhirah*, while verses 14 and 15 convey glad tidings of salvation for the righteous.

“However, they (most people) prefer the life of this world whereas the *Aakhirah* is much better and much more lasting” [verses 16 and 17]. These verses urge people to abstain from the luxuries of this world and to apply themselves in acquiring the success of the *Aakhirah*. Allaah then says that the previous scriptures have also propounded the same message. This is found in the scriptures of Ibraheem ؑ and Moosa ؑ. Therefore, the contents of these scriptures serve as further proof for the authenticity of the Qur'aan.

سُورَةُ الْأَعْلَى مَكِّيَّةٌ وَهِيَ تِسْعٌ عَشْرَةَ آيَةً
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

سَبِّحْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى ۝

1. **Glorify the name of your Exalted Rabb** *(The Most High)...*

الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوَّى ۝

2. **...Who created and perfected** *(shaped all of creation)...*

وَالَّذِي قَدَّرَ فَهَدَى ۝

3. **...Who determined** *(the proportions, numbers and capabilities of everything)* **and showed the way** *(to His creation by guiding them to fulfil the functions for which they were created.)...*

وَالَّذِي أَخْرَجَ الْمَرْعَى ۝

4. **...Who made** *(fresh, lush and sought-after)* **fodder grow...**

فَجَعَلَهُ عَئَاءً آخَى ۝

5. **...and then** *(after a while)* **reduced it to a black heap of** *(unwanted)* **debris.** *(This is symbolic of everything of this world, which tempts people to hanker after it but ultimately becomes something useless and unwanted.)*

سَنُقَرِّبُكَ فَلَا تَنسَى ۝

6. *(O Rasulullaah ﷺ)* **We shall soon teach** *(recite to)* **you** *(the Qur'aan)* **and you will not forget** *(any part of it)...*

إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ إِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ الْجَهْرَ وَمَا يَخْفَى ۝

7. **...except that** *(portion of the Qur'aan)* **which Allaah wants** *(you to forget because it has been cancelled. See verse 106 of Surah 2).* **Verily Allaah knows what is apparent** *(open)* **and what is**

hidden (and therefore knows best which laws of the Qur'aan to cancel and when).

وَنُيَسِّرُكَ لِلْيُسْرَىٰ ۖ

8. We shall soon make the easy thing (the Shari'ah) **simple for you** (so that understanding it, practising it and propagating it becomes easy for you).

فَذَكِّرْ إِن نَّفَعَتِ الذِّكْرَىٰ ۖ

9. So advise (remind others to practise the Shari'ah) **so that the advice may be beneficial.** (A advice is equally beneficial to the one giving the advice, as it is to others.)

سَيَذَكِّرْهُم مِّنْ يُخْشَىٰ ۖ

10. The one who fears (Allaah's punishment) **will heed** (understand the advice)...

وَيَجْتَنِبُهَا الْأَشْقَىٰ ۖ

11. ...whereas only he will turn away from it who is most unfortunate...

الَّذِي يَصِلَى النَّارَ الْكُبْرَىٰ ۖ

12. ...and who shall enter the gigantic fire (of Jahannam).

ثُمَّ لَا يَمُوتُ فِيهَا وَلَا يَحْيَىٰ ۖ

13. Then (when he enters Jahannam) **he will neither die there** (and will therefore suffer forever) **nor live** (a life worth living).

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَن تَزَكَّىٰ ۖ

14. Successful indeed is he who has purified (himself from kufr, shirk and spiritual diseases such as pride, jealousy, etc)...

وَذَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّىٰ ۖ

15. ...who takes the name of his Rabb (engages in Dhikr) **and performs salaah.**

بَلْ تُؤْثِرُونَ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا ۖ

16. However, they *(most people)* prefer the life of this world...

وَالْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ ۖ

17. ...whereas the Aakhirah is much better and much more lasting.

إِنَّ هَذَا فِي الصُّحُفِ الْأُولَىٰ ۚ

18. Undoubtedly, this *(the message given in the verses)* is *(also mentioned)* in the previous *(ancient)* scriptures *(scrolls)*...

صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ ۚ

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19. ...*(in)* the scriptures of Ibraheem عليه السلام and Moosa عليه السلام.